

progress, as well as more independence. Of course, in this instance, independence implies a self-defence, by producing within themselves, as much as possible, of the main necessities of life.

The present position of Ontario, in this relation, is peculiar: She imports pure breeds from other countries; some of these are retained, others are handed over to our neighbours and even a few are returned to their original source; those that are retained are not widely scattered within the Province, but largely in sections, and in the hands of a few. It is plain, then, that the country is not yet fully awake to her duty in this fifty per cent. By fifty per cent. I mean this: Ontario ploughs—under rotation of crops—10,000,000 acres, on which, for the ordinary purposes of cultivation, including implements, horses, and common cows, there is an investment of only \$20 per acre. There are sixty per cent. of our farmers—not including those still building homes in newer townships—who take no interest in improved live stock, who are content with the good living they do make by growing and selling grain and fodder, and consequently their actual investment in the land is comparatively little—little, in comparison to those who maintain cattle and sheep, for the purpose of conserving the crops, maintaining fertility, and securing extra profits. These \$20 per acre should just be doubled by investment in live stock by those, as we have said, who have had time to settle down to national duties—the duty of conserving all our energies towards progress and permanency. The number of such farmers in our Province is at least 50,000, or one-half, who hold an average of 150 acres each under cultivation,—three-fourths of the whole cultivated area.

By the recent work of our Bureau of Industries, we are now in possession of what is undoubtedly very correct, as regards *total* in number of live stock. For sake of reference, take the following, from August returns of the present year:

CATTLE:

Common milch cows.....	680,652
Working oxen	14,245
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	694,897
Other cattle, young calves, &c.....	617,001
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	1,311,898
Store cattle, over two years.....	272,861
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	1,584,759
Pure breeds	23,297
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Total Cattle in Province.....	1,608,056

SHEEP:

Total	1,942,780
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I see no reason to doubt the total numbers of cattle and sheep, but there is no such number as 23,000 thoroughbred cattle in Ontario. From the returns obtained by myself—making a specialty of the case—there are evidently not more than 13,000. It is well known that farmers are very inaccurate—not purposely—in distinguishing exactly between a high graded animal and a thoroughbred, so that the official statistics cannot be held responsible for the distinction.